

**Notice of Availability
Environmental Assessment for
Wildlife Control Actions at Williams Lake
Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the US Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed wildlife control actions at Williams Lake at Buckley Air Force Base (AFB).

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law [P.L.] 91-190, 42 United States Code 4321 *et seq.*) as amended in 1975 by P.L. 94-52 and P.L. 94-83.

Purpose. The *purpose* of the Proposed Action is to reduce wildlife strike hazards and satisfy aircraft operation needs, improve safety conditions for pilots and reduce substantial costs associated with aircraft damage or loss, satisfy base mission objectives, satisfy elements of the base's Natural Resources Program, and support objectives of the National Security Strategy.

Need: The *need* for the Proposed Action is driven by safety concerns related to wildlife interference with aircraft operations at Buckley AFB. Due to its location close to Buckley AFB's primary runway and overhead aircraft traffic pattern and its tendency to attract wildlife species, specifically waterfowl, Williams Lake poses a potential threat to flight safety.

Proposed Action. The Proposed Action comprises development and implementation of a Wildlife Management Control Program for Williams Lake that incorporates specific recommendations from Buckley AFB's Bird-Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Plan required to minimize or prevent wildlife interference with aircraft operations on the base.

Alternatives. There are three alternatives for the Proposed Action at Buckley AFB. Alternative 1, the Preferred Alternative, would include relocation of existing fish, draining water from the lake, removal of Williams Lake dam, and regrading the Williams Lake drainage basin to mirror predevelopment drainage conditions. Alternative 2 would be similar to the Preferred Alternative; however, under Alternative 2, Williams Lake dam would not be removed and regrading of the drainage basin would not occur. The No-Action Alternative would include continued implementation of wildlife deterrence measures Williams Lake; however, no wildlife habitat modifications or improvements would be conducted.

Comments. Comments on the Draft EA should be directed to Mr. Scott Wilson, 460 CES/CEAN, 660 South Aspen Street (Stop 86), Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9551. Electronic copies of the Draft EA are available on the public Buckley AFB website (www.buckley.af.mil) under the Library tab, then Environmental Information. Copies of the Draft EA will also be available for review beginning Thursday, 26 April 2012 at the Aurora Central Library, 14949 East Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012. The comment period is open for 30 days and will end on 26 May 2012. Copies of the Draft EA or any documents referenced in the EA can also be obtained by writing to Buckley AFB, attention Scott Wilson at the address above.